

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date June 2, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and announced that this virtual meeting would be recorded to the Cloud via the Zoom platform.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair	X	
Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair	X	
Marilyn Castriotta	X	
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner	X	
Rob Postel	X	
David Lukens	X	4:35 p.m. Arrived
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	
Lilly Lombard, Visitor	X	5:31 p.m.
Randy Sailor, Visitor	X	
Caylee Chan, Visitor	X	
Madeleine Lombard, Visitor	X	5:31 p.m.
Kit Sang Boos, Visitor	X	
Kyra Anderson, Visitor	X	
Virginia Sullivan, Visitor	X	5:31 p.m.

Public Comment

- Virginia Sullivan from 23 Dryads Green thanked the commission for moving in the direction of incorporating as many trees, greenery, climate mitigation and comfortable space for people in the downtown area.
- Madeleine Lombard a lifelong resident from Northampton and a Botanist at University of Massachusetts expressed her concern about the climate crisis. Madeleine stated “We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to redesign our Main Street to prepare for a zero carbon, hotter and a more stormy future. Planting a continuous canopy of large healthy shade trees must be an integral part of this redesign.” She hopes that the commission will support the planting of trees instead of where cars would be parked.

Review/approve April 21, 2021 meeting minutes

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no further discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Rob Postel	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- There were no objections on the Public Shade Tree Hearing that was held on May 18, 2021 for the tree removal on Glendale Road. Trees for this project will be replaced based on the mitigation replacement scale.

Summer Internship

- David Lukens introduced intern Caylee Chan. Caylee is a rising sophomore at George Washington University with a double major in Environmental & Sustainability Science and Public Health.
- Four potential initiatives that Caylee may work on are:
 - ❖ Keeping track of agendas from city committees or commissions relating to trees or the Significant Tree Ordinance.
 - ❖ Outreach material such as an educational presentation promoting tree education and community involvement. Subject matters could cover right of way and/or storm water mitigation value of trees and their cooling effect.
 - ❖ The Goal of Pollinate Northampton is to assist homeowners who want to support pollinators by planting native shrubs and trees. This is done in partnership with a Cummington Nursery's called Wing and a Prayer. Kits can be purchased by any homeowner for under \$100.00. One goal would be to work with the City of Northampton to identify urban street trees that would work the best.
 - ❖ Continue with the bike tour of significant trees around the city like Lilly Lombard had organized two years ago.
- Rich will reach out to Caylee with the acceptance letter and volunteer forms. He will also forward her contact information to the UFC members. Caylee will be finished with her internship around August 15th.
- Marilyn suggested adding time to the summer meeting so Caylee can update the commission on her projects and allows time for her to ask questions.

Main Street Redesign Presentation by Lilly Lombard

- Lilly thanked the City of Northampton for the forty new trees that were recently planted in their neighborhood.
- Main Street Northampton is one of the widest and most dangerous in the state and it was deemed a target for reconstruction to help to mitigate some of those safety issues.
- Main Street for Everyone is a grassroots group made up of Northampton residents who value the downtown public space and who recognize the climate emergency. The link for this website is mainst4everyone.org.
- Design recommendations from Main Street for Everyone is based on:
 - ❖ Shrinking the motorist footprint to gain space for people and green infrastructure.
 - ❖ Create a continuous shade tree canopy that forms a protective and beautiful street edge.
- Lilly asked for an official support from the UFC for a design featuring a continuous tree canopy along the entirety of Main Street with sufficient space and sufficient infrastructure to support its health along the street edge. The next Picture Main Street Forum is scheduled for June 24, 2021.

- Marilyn volunteered to write a letter supporting the Main Street for Everyone design by June 9, 2021. The letter will be reviewed during the UFC meeting on June 16, 2021.
- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To have Marilyn write a letter in support of the Main Street for Everyone proposed design.	Molly Hale	Susan Lofthouse	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

Ongoing Project Status

- Susan gave an Arbor Day week wrap up. 500 trees were bagged in one evening. For the first time ever all 500 were given out over the two-day distribution. Say no to volcano mulching was the single message focused on for this Arbor Day. It really raised a lot of awareness.
- Rob gave a spring planting update. Sixty bare root trees came in during Arbor Day week. Overall, 130 trees were planted in a very short time period. Due to the change in weather from cold to very hot, tree planting was terminated in the middle of May. Tree Northampton's focus then changed from tree planting to tree care of 600+ trees. Weeding and mulching of 180 trees have been completed. There has been more mortality this year more so than in previous years, possibly due to the heat and drought conditions over the past few years. Several years ago trees were planted on King Street with the new road work going on some of those trees were dug up and replanted on Industrial Drive.
- There is nothing new on sub-group meetings. Add a time slot to the next agenda to discuss how to carry on with UFC sub-group meetings.
- Molly asked for 10 minutes to be added to the next agenda to discuss Spotted Lanternfly.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Add a 20 minute presentation by Greg Beck to the next meeting.

To Do List

- Marilyn would like an official record of the To Do List. This should be added to the back of each meeting minutes or added to the calendar that Caylee will be working on.
- The Group Agreement needs to be added to the website.
- Marilyn will scan her copy of the Planting Plan Outline and send to UFC members.
- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Marilyn Castriotta	Jennifer Werner	Yes 7 , No 0, Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.